

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 128852
ORIGIN NEA-10

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S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MR. COLLUMS

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R 032234Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 128852

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 128852

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 3

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 3,
1977:

Q. HAS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE MADE ANY DECISION ABOUT
EITHER THE SALE OF PLANES TO PAKISTAN OR THE SALE OF PLANES
TO IRAN?

A. WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT TO SELL THE A-7 TO PAKISTAN
WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH OUR ARMS EXPORT POLICY. THE
DECISION WAS TAKEN WITHIN OUR GLOBAL ARMS EXPORT POLICY.
SPECULATION THAT THE DECISION WAS BASED ON POLITICAL CON-
SIDERATIONS HAS NO SUBSTANCE. THE REASON FOR THIS
DECISION IS THAT THE SALE OF THE A-7 WOULD HAVE MEANT IN-
TRODUCING A MAJOR SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS SYSTEM INTO SOUTH
ASIA.

Q. HOW ABOUT THE IRANIAN DEAL?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 128852

A. JIM, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO GIVE YOU ON THE IRANIAN
ASPECT OF THE STORY.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE CAPABILITY OF THE A-7?
WHAT MAKES IT SOPHISTICATED? IS IT FAST?

A. I THINK YOUR QUESTION IS BETTER ADDRESSED TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

Q. YOU ARE SAYING THAT THE DENIAL OF THESE PLANES WAS NOT
BASED ON POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS? ARE YOU SAYING THAT
THE DENIAL OF THOSE AIRCRAFT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE
BALANCE OF POWER IN THAT AREA?

A. WELL, WHEN I SAY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, WHAT WE
MEAN BY THAT IS THE REFERENCE IN THE ARTICLE TO THE DOMES-
TIC SITUATION IN PAKISTAN AND THE REFERENCES TO INDIA.

Q. YOU ARE DENYING THAT IT HAS ANY BEARING UPON THE
BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIA?

A. I AM SAYING THAT SPECULATION ALONG THE LINES THAT THE
DECISION WAS BASED ON POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS HAS NO
SUBSTANCE.

A. THAT'S CORRECT.

Q. DENIAL OF THE INTRODUCTION OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS
SYSTEMS INTO AN AREA IS A POLITICAL DECISION.

A. THAT'S A CRITERIA OF OUR GLOBAL ARMS EXPORT POLICY,
TO INTRODUCE A SOPHISTICATED WEAPON INTO THAT SORT OF
CONTEXT SUCH AS THE ONE THAT EXISTS IN SOUTH ASIA.

Q. WHEN THE FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE WENT TO PAKISTAN
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PAGE 04 STATE 128852

LAST AUGUST HE LINKED THE SALE OF THESE PLANES EITHER
POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY WITH PAKISTAN'S INTENTION TO AC-
QUIRE A REPROCESSING PLANT FROM FRANCE. THE IMPLICA-
TION WAS THAT IF PAKISTAN GOT THE REPROCESSING PLANT THEY
HAD NO HOPE FOR THE PLANES. THE CONVERSE OF THAT IS THAT
IF THEY RENOUNCE THE REPROCESSING PLANT THEY MIGHT GET
THE PLANES. DID THEIR INTENTION TO PROCEED WITH THAT DEAL
HAVE ANY BEARING ON THIS DECISION?

A. I'LL REPEAT TO YOU THAT THE DECISION WAS TAKEN IN THE
CONTEXT OF OUR GLOBAL ARMS EXPORT POLICY.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, MASS, US, PK, IR
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